CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 5 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT MADE BY THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON 28 MAY 1998

I have the honour to forward to you the text of a statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on 28 May 1998.

I would be grateful if you would issue this statement as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distribute it to all member States and non-member participant States of the CD.

(Signed) V. Sidorov
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

STATEMENT MADE BY THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON 28 MAY 1998

Russia expresses the deepest concern at the testing of nuclear devices by Pakistan on 28 May 1998. This action was taken despite urgent appeals by the world community to Islamabad to display restraint and not to follow the principle of "an eye for an eye" in response to the nuclear explosions carried out by India on 11 and 13 May 1998.

It is to be regretted that the Pakistani leaders were unable to control their emotions and demonstrate circumspection and prudence at an extremely fateful moment.

The confrontation and rivalry which have continued between India and Pakistan for many years have now acquired a completely new nuclear dimension which is highly dangerous for mankind as a whole. A real threat of proliferation of nuclear weapons around the planet is emerging.

Russia considers that the international non-proliferation regime should be made universal in nature through its extension to cover all States without exception. It once again urgently appeals to Pakistan, as well as to India, to heed the voice of the world community, renounce further testing and accede without delay to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty.